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have abundant evidence of Mr. Smith's intellectual candor and of his complete mastery of his subject. Nowhere else have we seen in so brief a paper so luminous and comprehensive a statement of the salient points in Irish history, or so just an analysis of the causes of the long-continued debasement of the Irish people.

4. — *The Leadbeater Papers. — The Annals of Ballitore, by MARY LEADBEATER, with a Memoir of the Author: Letters from Edmund Burke, heretofore unpublished: and the Correspondence of Mrs. R. Trench and Rev. George Crabbe with MARY LEADBEATER.* London: Bell and Daldy. 1862. 2 vols. 16mo. pp. 441, 403.

MARY LEADBEATER was the granddaughter of Abraham Shackleton, Burke's early teacher, and was born at Ballitore, in the county of Kildare, Ireland, in December, 1758. In 1791 she married William Leadbeater, who had also been a pupil at Ballitore; and three years afterward she began her literary career by the publication of "Extracts and Original Anecdotes for the Improvement of Youth." Subsequently she published a collection of her own "Poems," two series of "Cottage Dialogues of the Irish Peasantry," "The Landlord's Friend," "Cottage Biography," and "Memoirs of Richard and Elizabeth Shackleton." Such, indeed, was her taste for literary pursuits, that she continued her labors until a week before her death, which occurred on the 27th of June, 1826. During her lifetime her writings enjoyed much popularity, and were strongly commended by several competent critics; but they are now quite forgotten, and even her name was scarcely remembered. Yet she was a woman of much natural ability, of a refined and cultivated taste, and greatly esteemed and beloved by her friends, as is sufficiently shown by the two volumes now published, and by the affectionate terms in which she is mentioned in the recently published *Literary Remains of Mrs. Richard Trench*.

The first of the two volumes now before us consists of an autobiographical sketch of Mrs. Leadbeater's life, from 1766 to 1824, together with much other matter of a less personal interest, under the general title of "Annals of Ballitore." It is pleasantly written, and comprises some graphic descriptions of the scenery of Ballitore and of the mode of life there, as well as a very vivid account of the Rebellion of 1798. But, with the exception of the pages devoted to the latter subject, the volume contains very little which is of sufficient permanent interest or worth to justify its publication. The second volume opens with a correspondence between Edmund Burke and

Mrs. Leadbeater's father, Richard Shackleton. This correspondence covers a period of more than forty years, from 1744 to 1788, and includes about sixty letters from Burke. Most of them, however, were written not long after he left school, and are in no respect superior to the ordinary letters of young men at college. But there are two letters, under date of April 19th and May 6th, 1770, which are a positive addition to the materials for any satisfactory memoir of him, and which cannot fail to be read with interest. In the first he sharply and bitterly attacks his old schoolmate for the surreptitious publication in one of the London newspapers of a very laudatory notice of the statesman composed three or four years before, and thoughtlessly given by Shackleton to one of his friends, through whose carelessness it had found its way into print. Shackleton replied in a temperate and modest letter, which at once elicited from Burke a frank and manly acknowledgment of his error in being "weak and blamable enough to write a very angry, a very cruel, and in all respects a very improper letter." These letters strikingly illustrate the impetuosity of Burke's temper, and the real nobleness of feeling which entered so largely into his character. The next and largest division of the volume consists of the correspondence of Mrs. Leadbeater and Mrs. Trench, from each of whom there are numerous letters, written with vivacity, and containing many interesting observations and much just criticism. They are not, perhaps, remarkable, if compared with the best specimens of epistolary composition; but their sprightliness of tone, their occasional graphic descriptions, and their frequent reference to passing events, render them worthy of preservation. The last division includes the correspondence of the Rev. George Crabbe and Mrs. Leadbeater, beginning when both were far advanced in life, and extending over a period of several years. It contains nothing especially noteworthy, and the lady's epistles are much inferior to her letters to Mrs. Trench.

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5. — 1. *A Memoir of Sir Philip Sidney.* By H. R. FOX BOURNE. London: Chapman and Hall. 1862. 8vo. pp. xv. and 557.
 2. *The Life of Sir Philip Sidney.* By JULIUS LLOYD, M. A. London: Longman, Brown, Longman, and Roberts. 1862. Small 8vo. pp. xvi. and 244.

IF we had not recently made Sir Philip Sidney the theme of an extended article,* we should gladly do so now, in connection with some

* North American Review, No. 183, Art. II.